

Mr. Cashman

INT. DAY - APPARTMENT

The modern-looking apartment is filled with old-timey furniture. ELAINE, 37, sits on the couch. BARNEY, mid 40's, stands behind the couch, waiting for her to say something. ELAINE LOOKS BACK AT HIM.

ELAINE  
Are you nervous?

BARNEY  
Yes. Are you?

ELAINE  
No.

BARNEY  
Good. There is no sense in both of us being nervous.

ELAINE  
Can I have a cigarette?

Barney feels his pockets pointlessly.

BARNEY  
I don't smoke.

ELAINE  
Then what are you feeling your pockets for?

BARNEY  
Its just a reflex, I guess.

ELAINE  
You don't have any in the apartment?

BARNEY  
It's not my apartment.

ELAINE  
I see.

She takes a deep breath and regains her composure.

ELAINE (CONT')  
You just borrow it once in a while?

(CONTINUED)

BARNEY

No, nothing like that. It's my mother's apartment actually.

ELAINE

You're not actually serious?

BARNEY

I am.

ELAINE

Is she gonna join us?

BARNEY

She doesn't get home until five. She does charity work. She likes to help needy people.

ELAINE

Like us?

BARNEY

Er... Would you like a drink?

ELAINE

Hit me.

BARNEY goes to the MINIBAR.

BARNEY

I'm sorry. I should have offered you one right away. I have a B&J Scotch. Is that all right?

ELAINE

I'll have a B&J.

He takes a bottle and two glasses out of a paper bag. He covertly smells his fingers.

ELAINE (CONT')

You brought glasses? What, were you afraid your mother would notice if you used her's?

ELAINE Stands up from the couch and approaches him.

BARNEY

Well, she's a very meticulous woman, and I wouldn't want things to get complicated.

BARNEY pours scotch into the glasses.

(CONTINUED)

ELAINE

I think you did the smart thing.

BARNEY smiles at her and hands her a drink

ELAINE(CONT')

Do you know you have a nice smile?

BARNEY

Well, thank you, but... I'm  
the one who's supposed to say  
nice things to you...

ELAINE

All right. Say nice things to me.

Elaine WALKS toward the couch.

BARNEY

You're an attractive woman.

ELAINE

That's it? You came off better  
than I did.

ELAINE sits on the couch.

ELAINE(CONT')

Cheers.

BARNEY

Cheers!

They both drink. She, a healthy slug; he, just a sip and he  
winces. BARNEY sits down next to her, leaving his glass on  
the coffee-table. He covertly smells his fingers.

ELAINE

You just did it again.

BARNEY

Did what?

ELAINE

Smelled your fingers. That's  
the third time you smelled your  
fingers since I'm here.

BARNEY

Did I do that?

ELAINE

Is that an occupational hazard? Owning a fish restaurant and always worrying how your fingers smell?

BARNEY

It's the oysters...I try to conceal it, I use soap, perfume, aftershave...

ELAINE

I wouldn't worry about it if I were you.

BARNEY

Well, it's not the suavest thing in the world.

Beat.

BARNEY(CONT'D)

You're a very unusual woman Elaine.

ELAINE

In what way?

BARNEY

Like the way you came to my restaurant. I've never seen you there before and suddenly you come back for lunch eight days in a row. What is that?

ELAINE

I get cravings.

BARNEY

You mean to eat?

ELAINE

To eat, to touch, to smell, to do... A sensual, physical pleasure that can only be satisfied at that particular moment.

BARNEY

You mean like a cold coke after an hour of golf?

ELAINE

I'm going to have trouble with you, right? ... I have a craving for another Scotch.

(CONTINUED)

He goes over to grab her glass.

ELAINE(CONT')  
What time is it?

BARNEY  
Ten after three.

BARNEY pours another scotch into her glass.

ELAINE  
We've got an hour and  
fifty minutes. Okay, you want to  
make the first move?

BARNEY  
Boy, you're very open about  
things, aren't you?

ELAINE  
So you're not going to make the  
first move.

BARNEY  
Sure I am. I just thought we'd  
finish our drinks first.

BARNEY hands her her drink.

ELAINE  
Did you ask me to come up here  
to have an affair or not?

BARNEY  
Look, I don't deny my  
intentions were of a romantic  
nature...

ELAINE  
Okay. All right. I'm flexible.  
I'll try things your way..what did  
you want to see me about Mr.  
Cashman?

BARNEY  
Ooh, Elaine, don't be like that.

ELAINE  
Well, maybe I just don't  
understand you.

BARNEY

I just thought you wanted to  
know more about me.

ELAINE

Look, you were the one who  
wrote down an address on the back  
of my check. Then I come here  
and find out we've got an hour  
and fifty minutes before your momma  
comes home. Are you going to make  
a move or not?

Beat. She STANDS UP.

BARNEY

Where are you going?

ELAINE

Outside, Looking for cigarette  
butts...

She CHUGS her drink and leaves the frame. Barney is left  
alone, smelling his fingers.

(FADE TO CREDITS)